

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

Amendment to Specification. The abstract is amended consonant with the suggestions of the Examiner.

Claims Objections. Claim 20 is objected to; the claim is amended consonant with the suggestion of the Examiner. It is noted that claim 20 is otherwise allowable.

Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 1-4, 7-15 and 19 are rejected as anticipated by Hoffmuller. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hoffmuller discloses a system whereby the core 3 is longitudinally expandable (along the axis of the core tubes 3) by means of a number of expansion mechanisms 22 which include multiple pins 23 (see also col. 1, lines 41-55 and col. 4, lines 39-67). As is expressly disclosed thereon, this provides only for movement that is longitudinal, that is, along the axis of pins 23, which are in turn co-axial with tubes 3. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 55-57 ("One component 19 or two adapters 11 are urged towards the tube ends by means of one ceramic pin 23.").

Hoffmuller thus discloses multiple pins, which pins only permit the core to expand longitudinally. By contrast, as amended claim 1 provides a "single mount", and further provides that the core varies in size "laterally" (i.e., side-to-side). Claim 11 originally contained the limitation "laterally" in line 7 thereof; it has further been amended to provide a "single" mount.

It may further be seen that the invention permits the core to expand in two dimensions, both length and width (e.g., laterally). The Hoffmuller reference permits expansion of the core in only one dimension, longitudinally.

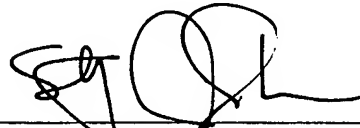
Because Hoffmuller does not disclose a single mount, and does not disclose a mount allowing lateral core expansion, but only discloses longitudinal core expansion, Hoffmuller does not anticipate.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions or suggestions relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call John Christopher James, Reg. No. 40,660 at (310) 791-7850.

Respectfully submitted,

October 26, 2004  
Date



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